

VERA CRUZ IS NOW QUIET; BAND HELPS TO PACIFY RESIDENTS

dent Huerta said he regretted very much that he had to bid him farewell, as he felt warm esteem for him as a personal friend. The President also said he need not worry about the Americans in Mexico City as they would be well cared for.

Mr. O'Shaughnessy left Mexico city last night with all the personnel of the embassy except Mr. Dantin, the interpreter. The British Minister will look out for the embassy.

Mr. Braniff, a wealthy Englishman; Capt. Najera of President Huerta's staff and 100 men of the Twenty-ninth Regiment accompanied Mr. O'Shaughnessy. The train was delayed for a long time at every station on the route.

Mr. O'Shaughnessy says no American refugees had left Mexico city when he took his departure from the capital. President Huerta had refused to allow any to depart, giving as the reason that while he would be sending Americans from the capital Americans would not reciprocate by sending Mexican refugees from Vera Cruz.

Gen. Corona, President Huerta's chief of staff, accompanied Mr. O'Shaughnessy on the train which Capt. Rose, a chief of staff, met at Tejeira. It was then arranged to make an exchange of refugees.

Mr. O'Shaughnessy says that before he left Mexico city there had been many anti-American demonstrations by irresponsible persons. These people tore down the statue of George Washington which was a gift to Mexico by the American colony during the celebration of the Mexican centennial. The statue was dragged through the mud and left at the foot of the Juarez monument.

Guns at Embassy Confiscated.

Mr. O'Shaughnessy says the Mexican Government quietly confiscated the machine guns at the American Embassy.

Mr. and Mrs. O'Shaughnessy and the embassy clerks, Parker and McKenna and Mrs. Parker, are the guests of Rear Admiral Fletcher on board the Florida. They will remain there until they sail for the United States. When that will be has not been decided.

The plan to send a train to meet the American Charge d'Affaires, the members of the embassy staff and American refugees, had to be abandoned.

This course was made necessary by the discovery that the only engine in the possession of the Americans at the railroad yards is too badly damaged to haul the train.

Up to 3 o'clock this afternoon the whereabouts of Mr. O'Shaughnessy were unknown.

The plan was for the train which left here to meet the refugee train from Mexico city at Tlaxiela, six miles from Vera Cruz. The action of President Huerta in furnishing a guard of honor to Charge d'Affaires and his courtesy toward the American diplomatic representative at the capital made it impossible for Rear Admiral Fletcher to make an attempt to recover the engines which Gen. Gustavo Maass, the commander of the garrison here, had removed before his flight.

The Admiral had made an offer to send a train with all residents of Vera Cruz who desired to leave here to the capital, but the lack of engines will probably prevent this from being done. Hundreds of citizens had expressed a desire to leave here as soon as the transportation facilities would permit.

The local officials and many of the citizens refuse to cooperate with the Americans in restoring normal conditions in the city, as they fear retaliation by President Huerta later on if they assisted the American forces.

No Longer Mexican Territory.

Under the Mexican law as interpreted here the city is not Mexican territory during the American occupation. This accounts in some part for the disinclination of the Mexican officials to resume their duties.

Rear Admiral Fletcher has been trying to work out plans for solving this difficult situation and his efforts are now before the authorities at Washington for decision.

Conditions in this city are fast improving. Practically all the stores are reopened and the streets are crowded up to sunset. One of the United States bands

provoked tremendous enthusiasm this afternoon by playing Mexican tunes in one of the public squares.

The police court has been re-established. Mexican physicians are returning to their work at the hospitals.

Twenty-seven wounded Mexicans were found to-day in one building.

Surgeon L. W. Spratling, U. S. N., who is in charge of part of the sanitation work, greatly praises the Mexican White Cross, which, he says, has done admirable work.

Mexican officials estimated to-night that the Federal losses are 129 dead and 295 wounded.

The Ward liner City of Mexico, with 250 American refugees aboard, left to-day for Galveston after the arrival of the train from Mexico city. As the steamer left port the Americans cheered T. H. Hohler, the British Charge d'Affaires, who came with them from the capital.

Admiral Fletcher has received information that 5,000 Federal troops are at Soledad, fifteen miles from this place. Their intentions are unknown and the report of the presence of this large force has not been confirmed. The American outposts in trenches are still being maintained.

The American navy is feeding the natives of the town at the supply stations by giving out baskets of food. The bread lines are of considerable length.

The American outposts, pushed to a point five miles beyond the city, are being strongly fortified to resist the possible attack from the 5,000 Federal troops said to be encamped at Soledad, fifteen miles out, under Gen. Gustavo Maass.

All day long the seamen and marines were hard at work building fighting trenches and preparing machine guns to repel an assault. Twelve machine guns and a number of three inch rifles were taken to the front by teams of six horses each.

City Resembles a War Camp.

Admiral Fletcher's headquarters in the Terminal Hotel are well guarded with machine guns and every portion of the city is bristling with American artillery. Vera Cruz is a formidable war camp and the navy men are sure they could successfully fight off any attack from Huerta's men.

The water supply station at Tejar was seized by a detachment of marines this morning. The Americans are supplied with oil to run the machinery and have experienced engineers to oversee the work. This is an important step, as it insures the preservation of an adequate and sanitary water supply for the city. It had been feared that the retreating Federals would destroy or poison the supply sources and compel a water famine here.

With Capt. Smedley Butler and his marines in control of all approaches to the city the situation within began to improve at once. Admiral Fletcher took steps to have the ordinary life resumed and to force the continuation of commerce and social activity. The thorough house to house search for snipers has practically extinguished the guerrillas who were harassing the occupying force and has rendered safer the lot of the seamen. Patrols keep vigilant guard on all streets and to every appearance Vera Cruz is still under martial law.

The street car lines are running again to-night and a number of restaurants and places of amusement have opened and are attracting crowds of the volatile Mexicans. A new club has been secured for the municipal sanitation plant, which has been put in thorough operation, thus removing another menace of a spread of disease.

The orders yesterday were that all civilians should keep within their houses after half past 7 at night. The night hours therefore have been quiet, but it is expected that within a day or so the curfew hour will be fixed for later, and the people will be encouraged to go about after dark.

The Louisiana Arrives.

An important addition to the force ashore was made to-day when the battleship Louisiana drew into the harbor and landed a large number of marines and seamen. The Mississippi is also prepared to send ashore 700 seamen, a detachment of marines and an aeroplane.

The report that Maass is entrenched at Soledad and the possibility of a Federal movement against the city will give work to the navy fliers. The aviators will be sent out in a short time to survey the surrounding country and locate hostile troops.

Admiral Fletcher now has more than 5,000 men in the city under his command. The additions from the fleet will bring this number close to 7,000 to-morrow and there are more in reserve if they are needed.

An ambiguous situation has developed in the Custom House with the appointment of Commander Herman O. Stickney of the Prairie as commander of the port. Mariano Acarragua, the Mexican collector of customs, has refused to serve out his office with the Americans in control of the city, but has been persuaded to take charge of the unfinished business. He asserts that the port of Vera Cruz has been closed by Gen. Huerta and that his place has therefore been abandoned.

Stickney therefore will have to take the administration of new customs business. He has secured a few of the

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Consulate Is Assailed and U. S. Flag Trampled in Mud by Angry Mexicans on Learning of the Landing at Vera Cruz of Marines and Sailors

The situation in Mexico city on Thursday, after the news of the landing of American forces in Vera Cruz was received, is described by W. G. Shepherd, the United Press correspondent, in the following despatch sent yesterday from Vera Cruz after his arrival in that city from the Mexican capital:

Vera Cruz, Mexico, April 24.—Eight hundred Americans are still in Mexico at the mercy of the dictator, Huerta. Anti-American demonstrations are constantly in progress.

Blind with anger Huerta has instructed the police and soldiers not to molest mobs which have rioted in front of the American Club, torn the coat of arms from the door of the consulate and stoned and insulted Americans brave enough to appear on the streets.

The American Club has been abandoned and was later looted by Mexicans. The American Hotel has also been deserted.

Nelson O'Shaughnessy, American Charge d'Affaires, announced that he was going to Vera Cruz, but it was the intention of O'Shaughnessy to leave secretly for Manzanillo, on the west coast.

Since Tuesday, when Vera Cruz was taken, Americans have carried their lives in their hands in Mexico city. As the men worked tirelessly in the embassy preparing rifles and machine guns for action the brave women of the colony constantly encouraged their husbands. There was no sign of fear.

Mrs. O'Shaughnessy was ill from nervousness, but she served tea in the embassy to the men and women who were preparing to defend themselves against an expected attack from the infuriated Mexicans. Most of the time Mrs. O'Shaughnessy was prostrate upon a couch, but showing the utmost bravery she graciously encouraged her husband and all who were working with him.

I arrived in Vera Cruz to-day with 150 men, women and children from the American, English and German colonies in Mexico city.

Another train was due to leave the capital at 7 o'clock this morning and many more Americans may escape from the city. Those remaining, however, are dependent upon Sir Lionel Carden, the British Ambassador, for protection. He is doing everything possible to protect them, and his plan when our party left was to distribute the Americans to the various embassies.

A British Refugee Train.

It was Wednesday evening when the sixty Americans arriving here to-day left Mexico city on what was really a British refugee train. The men, women and children left behind were then hiding in their homes, trusting that Sir Lionel Carden could protect them.

Tuesday night every man in the American colony, including the correspondents, went to the embassy and prepared 275 rifles and two machine guns for use.

These were in the basement, and all were brought out, tested and found to be ready.

Every interview between O'Shaughnessy and Gen. Huerta increased the blind anger of the Dictator. When last I saw the Charge he was unspcakably worried.

The last report we heard was that Huerta planned to strip the embassy of its guns in retaliation for the taking of Vera Cruz. He had already seized the railroads and the cable and refused

clerks who served under Acarragua, and they will be valuable aids.

Cheering news comes from the hospitals to-night. The surgeons say that only three of the wounded Americans are in serious condition and that the others will be in shape to resume duty within a few days. First Class Fireman Pulliam, Ordinary Seaman E. G. Wright and Private J. G. Peoples are seriously hurt, but the doctors hope to pull all of them through.

In the occupation of the city and the dangerous and arduous moments of fighting in the streets the medical corps marched hand in hand with the landing forces. Whenever a seaman or marine fell a surgeon was at his side in an instant. In this prompt way

to permit O'Shaughnessy, Consul-General Shanklin or Capt. Burnside, the military attaché, to send messages of any description.

"All I want is to get the embassy staff out of here," was the statement of O'Shaughnessy to me the last time I saw him.

Members of the House of Deputies led the mob which rioted in front of the American Club after the news of the taking of Vera Cruz was received.

The news of the landing of the marines reached the people through extra editions of the newspapers. The dictator seemed to do everything possible to inflame the crowds. He was successful. They stormed through the streets, driving Americans before them, and then swept on toward the embassy.

O'Shaughnessy had no word from Washington as to the action that had been taken, as messages to him were withheld.

At the request of Ambassador Carden a guard of forty police was sent by Huerta, but throughout Tuesday and Wednesday night the embassy was surrounded by hooting, jeering crowds.

Huerta Seeks to Gain Sympathy.

Huerta's action in permitting the mobs to vent their anger against the Americans was obviously in an effort to gain sympathy. If the dictator finds that the followers of Carranza and Zapata, the bandit chief of the south, are anti-American he may even permit violence in an effort to consolidate the divided factions of the country.

En route to Vera Cruz our train came upon the Federal army which fled from Vera Cruz and I talked with the Mexican soldiers. They were wild with anger and declared they would return soon and "wipe out the Americans."

"The Americans fired before we expected," the troops said as they related the story of the landing, their hatred for the American sailors increasing with every repeated detail.

"We carried rifles cannon away with us," the soldiers told me, "and will soon be ready to return and drive out the gringo invaders."

I took a photograph of the retreating troops, and at the next station, within two miles of the American lines, our train was held up by the Federal soldiers for four hours. The officer in command demanded that I be taken from the train.

"Mr. Britisher, I believe you have deceived us," the officer declared as he insisted upon my arrest. He evidently mistook me for a British subject.

T. H. Hohler, the British Charge d'Affaires, refused to surrender me. There was some further parleying, but with the arrival of the relief train on which were British bluejackets from the Essex we were permitted to continue toward Vera Cruz.

Transferred to Relief Train.

All passengers were transferred to the relief train for the final trip into Vera Cruz. The engine which pulled the refugees into the seaport city had been filled with 4,000 buckets of water carried by the crews of the battleships Arkansas and Florida. Not being in possession of any water tanks it is necessary for the American forces to carry the water used on the engines.

There are 500 Americans in Guadalupe who are probably in as great danger as those remaining in Mexico city. Anti-American sentiment is to be permitted to run rampant until the anger of Huerta is satisfied. He has the noble purpose of revenge for Vera Cruz and support in a general conflict with the United States.

The dictator is going to every extreme

feetly equipped vessels of that sort in the world. The arrival of the Solace relieved the Prairie of a duty that she was not well fitted to perform and insured better care for the sufferers.

The French cruiser Comde arrived here to-day and the British cruiser Lancaster is expected to-morrow.

Every American Consul in Mexico has received a copy of President Wilson's declaration that war with Mexico was not his object.

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FEAR FOR AMERICANS IN COAST TOWNS OF MEXICO

Badger Informed That Appearance of U. S. Warship Will Provoke Riots Against Foreign Residents—Scout Cruisers Recalled.

By E. DE L. SLEVIN,
Special correspondent of THE SUN.

VERA CRUZ, April 24.—Rear Admiral Badger has received a despatch from the Navy Department at Washington stating that the Government has been informed that the appearance of an American warship at any Mexican coast town would provoke riots against the Americans there.

For this reason orders have been issued that the cruiser Nashville, which had started out to carry instructions to American Consuls to order all Americans to flock to the coast towns, where they would be picked up by the steamer Monterey, has been recalled. The scout cruisers which were to have started on a similar mission will not leave for the present.

Experienced observers here are convinced that anything short of a prompt advance by the American troops will mean disaster. They say that the longer the Washington authorities hesitate to move the more the Mexicans will be encouraged in the belief which they have always entertained that the American Government is afraid to fight Mexico. The lives of Americans throughout Mexico will also be placed in greater jeopardy by any further delay.

The papers of Mexico city are printing the most absurd reports as to the progress of the fighting. They state that Mexican Federal troops have captured Eagle Pass and Laredo, Tex., and are now marching on San Antonio.

Another story printed in the papers at the capital is that Gen. Pancho Villa has captured El Paso, Tex. A great revolution has broken out in Colorado, according to one Mexican paper, and the negroes are joining the Mexican residents in an attempt to oust President Wilson on account of his present attitude.

A report that Emiliano Zapata, the rebel leader, has offered his services to Huerta is also printed in several papers.

Mexican soldiers and naval ends who fled from here to Mexico city after the American marines drove them out

are boasting at the capital that a handful of Mexicans checked the whole force of the great American fleet for two days.

American refugees are still waiting here for transportation home. It is claimed by many that the danger is increasing with the dilatoriness at Washington.

Food is becoming short in the city, and it may be necessary for the fleet to feed the people. The markets have been exhausted of all their supplies, and it is impracticable for the moment to bring in any fresh supplies of country products, a result of the crippled conditions of the railroads. It is feared that the Mexicans will hold up all supply trains trying to reach this city.

Ammunition Found in Church.

The naval authorities have arrested a priest who was suspected of aiding snipers to escape. From the tower of the church in the Plaza, where he was captured, numerous shots were fired at the Americans, but when an entrance was made the priest was the only man in the building.

Terrified, he fell to his knees and prayed the marines to spare his life. He apparently feared that he would be killed forthwith and his captors had hard time persuading him that he would get a square deal. Later five Mexicans suspected of sniping were found hidden behind the church organ. Three thousand rounds of ammunition was also discovered in an embrasure, as well as a number of guns abandoned in the flight of the riflemen.

Many Mexican citizens have appealed to Admiral Fletcher for the release of friends and relatives who have been arrested. They have been assured that all captives will be treated fairly and that all who can prove their innocence will be set free.

Varying reports are in circulation here tonight of the movements of Gen. Maass and his Federal troops. Refugees from Mexico city say that Maass is at Soledad, that he is to be joined there by Gen. Rulfo Navarrete with reinforcements, but that no attempt at recapturing Vera Cruz is contemplated. Maass is said to have been much impressed by the formidable appearance of the United States warships and the businesslike methods of the soldiers in taking possession of the city.

One report is that Maass is short of ammunition. It is also said that the Federals are assembling at Orizaba as well as at Soledad. The Federals are supposed to have a plentiful supply of dynamite with which they purpose to blow up the big railroad bridge at Perote as they fall back toward the capital.

MEXICANS LOST 321 IN VERA CRUZ FIGHT

Admiral Fletcher Reports City Is Quiet and Confidence Restored.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—In a despatch filed at Vera Cruz at 4:15 P. M. to-day Admiral Fletcher reports the list of casualties of the Mexicans as 126 killed and 195 wounded, making the total of casualties 321.

Admiral Fletcher further reported that at 3 o'clock this afternoon he had reported to Admiral Badger that quiet prevailed in Vera Cruz and that affairs are gradually being straightened out and confidence is being restored. The City Council was to meet at 4 o'clock in an endeavor to retain present officials in the continuance of their duty.

Admiral Badger in a despatch dated at 4:25 P. M. reports:

Eight hundred refugees arrived here from Mexico city at 2 P. M. to-day. Refugee question now the most difficult of all.

A later bulletin reads:

Admiral Badger reports at 8 P. M. that food supplies are beginning to enter Vera Cruz and that the water situation is more favorable. The banks and stores have reopened, the streets are full of people, while the street railway and telephone systems are resuming operations under regular management.

Under Mexican law, former municipal authorities are forbidden to resume office during the occupation of the city by United States forces, but patriotic citizens are endeavoring to put the administration of the city on a normal footing. The administration of municipal affairs still presents a difficult problem, but is improving.

Our defenses have been materially

strengthened, and the sand hills at the rear of the city are now so strongly held that no attack is anticipated at present.

No further casualties and all the wounded are doing well.

A telegram received at the Navy Department to-night from San Diego, from Lieut. Jensen, commander of the minesweeper Cheyenne, says that the Cheyenne had arrived at Ensenada and that the place was greatly excited yesterday when they saw the destroyers passing the harbor.

Troops were hurriedly stationed to resist an expected landing, and four field guns were brought to bear. Lieut. Jensen says that the Mexican Commander General Carranza has guaranteed the safety of Americans and that an official proclamation the American Consul yesterday sent Americans to manzanillo, five and ten miles down the coast.

Another bulletin reads:

Despatches received by the State Department from Consul Canada, which were filed last night contain the report of restored order at Vera Cruz sent out by Admiral Fletcher. Consul Canada reports that at 10 P. M. last night the city was absolutely quiet and perfectly controlled by our forces, and that the streets were again in operation and the people gradually resuming their occupations.

One of the best evidences received so far of the change in the situation was in the landing of three ships here yesterday afternoon, which gave concerts all afternoon in the parks of the city. Further details were communicated by Consul Canada in regard to the arrival of the relief train bearing refugees from Mexico city.

The train proceeded as far toward Vera Cruz as possible, but was stopped by the destruction of the railroad track, which was found to have been torn up for about three miles from the train bearing refugees from Mexico city.

One of the evening newspapers at Vera Cruz published its regular issue last night for the first time since the occupation. The Consul says that he has talked with the Mayor and Chief of Police, who have agreed to cooperate with Admiral Fletcher in the command of the shore forces.

Change has risen from 22 to 24.

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